

REMARKS

The present application is a division of co-pending Application No. 10/068,988 (the '988 Application), filed February 11, 2002. The pending claims are Claims 5-8, which were submitted in the '988 Application. Claims 5-7 have been amended as to matters of form only; those amendments do not narrow the scope of these claims. Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicants hereby claim priority under the International Convention and all rights to which they are entitled under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Priority Application 2001-033808, filed February 9, 2001.

A certified copy of the priority document was provided in the '988 Application.

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim to priority based on the documents received in the '988 Application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The listed documents are of record in the '988 Application. In keeping with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d)(1), copies of the listed documents are not enclosed but may be found in the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the '988 Application.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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